CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims 1-16 (including non-statutory amendments to claims 1-16) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-16 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system, ~~having~~ comprising:

a primary station;

a secondary station;

a random access channel for the transmission of data from ~~a~~ the secondary station to ~~a~~ the primary station[,];

wherein the secondary station ~~having~~ includes means for requesting access to a random access channel resource by transmitting a signal encoded with a first signature corresponding to the resource[,];

wherein the primary station ~~having~~ includes means for transmitting a response to the request[,];

wherein the secondary station ~~having~~ includes means for subsequently transmitting a contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature[,]; and

wherein the primary station ~~having~~ includes means for transmitting a further response to the contention resolution signal, means for selecting a random access channel to which the secondary station will be granted access, and means for transmitting a channel allocation signal identifying this channel at the same time as at least one of the responses.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the random access channel is adapted for transmission of data in packets.

3. (Currently Amended) A primary station for use in a radio communication system ~~having~~ including a random access channel for the transmission of data from a secondary station to the primary station, the primary station comprising:

~~wherein~~ means ~~are provided~~ for transmitting a response to a request from the secondary station for access to a random access channel resource, wherein the request ~~comprising~~ includes transmission of a signal encoded with a first signature[,];

means for transmitting a further response to a subsequent contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature transmitted by the secondary station[,];

means for selecting a random access channel to which the secondary station will be granted access[,]; and

means for transmitting a channel allocation signal identifying this channel at the same time as at least one of the responses.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The primary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising:

means ~~are provided~~ for transmitting a further response to a further contention resolution signal transmitted by the secondary station.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The primary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising:

means ~~are provided~~ for transmitting the channel allocation signal at the same time as each of the responses.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The primary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising:

means ~~are provided~~ for subdividing the channel allocation signal into a plurality of portions[,]; and

means for transmitting each of the portions at the same time as a respective one of the responses.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The primary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising:

means ~~are provided~~ for including the channel allocation signal as part of the or each response.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The primary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising:

means ~~are provided~~ for transmitting a random access channel status message indicating the highest data rate available on the random access channel.

9. (Currently Amended) A secondary station for use in a radio communication system ~~having~~ including a random access channel for the transmission of data to a primary station, the secondary station comprising:

~~wherein~~ means ~~are provided~~ for requesting access to a random access channel resource by transmitting a signal encoded with a first signature corresponding to the resource[,];

means for receiving a response from the primary station and subsequently transmitting a contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature[,];

means for receiving a further response from the primary station[,]; and

means for determining which channel has been allocated from a channel allocation signal transmitted by the primary station at the same time as at least one of the responses.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising:

means ~~are provided~~ for receiving from the primary station a random access channel status message indicating the availability of random access channel resources; and

means for using the status message as a check on the channel allocation signal before initial transmission of data.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a radio communication system ~~having~~ including a random access channel for the transmission of data from a secondary station to a primary station, the method comprising:

the secondary station requesting access to a random access channel resource by transmitting a signal encoded with a first signature corresponding to the resource[,];

the primary station transmitting a response to the request[,];

the secondary station subsequently transmitting a contention resolution signal encoded with a second signature[,]; ~~and~~

the primary station transmitting a further response to the contention resolution signal[,];

the primary station selecting a random access channel to which the secondary station will be granted access[,]; and

the primary station transmitting a channel allocation signal identifying this channel at the same time as at least one of the responses.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising:

the secondary station transmitting a further contention resolution signal and the primary station transmitting a further response.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising:

the primary station transmitting the channel allocation signal at the same time as each of the responses.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising:

the primary station subdividing the channel allocation ~~signalling~~ signaling into a plurality of portions[,]; and

the primary station transmitting each of the portions at the same time as a respective one of the responses.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising:

the primary station including the allocation ~~signalling~~ signaling as part of the or each response.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising:

the primary station transmitting a random access channel status message indicating the highest data rate available on the random access channel.